

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
AUGUST 15, 1996

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Thursday, August 15, 1996, at 9:00 a.m., in Conference Room 507 of the Paul B. Johnson, Jr., Building in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members present: Alton Bankston, Yvonne Brown, Henry Hudspeth, John Junkin, II, Patricia Puckett, Perrin Purvis, William Seal, Hazel Terry, and George Walker.

Member absent: Joanna Heidel

Staff in attendance: Dr. Olon Ray, Executive Director, William Box, William Bunch, Jr., Becky Cade, Dr. Larry Day, Deborah Gilbert, Janet Henderson, Sandra Lucas, R. L. McClellan, Ed Schneider, and Frankie Walton White.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Walker at 9:10 a.m.

PRELIMINARIES

The invocation was given by Yvonne Brown.

Chairman Walker welcomed visitors Representative Clem Nettles and Mrs. Nancy Alley.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Alton Bankston, seconded by Henry Hudspeth, the Board approved the minutes of the July 19, 1996, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Agenda

On a motion by Perrin Purvis, seconded by Patricia Puckett, the Board unanimously adopted the agenda as presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Olon Ray also welcomed Representative Nettles to the meeting and thanked him for his continuing support for community colleges. Dr. Ray thanked Yvonne Brown for representing the Board by participating in the Mississippi Community College Fellowship Program.

Dr. Ray distributed copies of Executive Order Number 769, establishing a One-Stop Interagency Executive Council for Board members' review. (Exhibit A)

Dr. Ray reported that the Community College Network's Taskforce is continuing to meet to prepare plans in the areas of telecommunications and telecourse delivery.

Dr. Ray also reported that the Industrial Training Program at the University of Southern Mississippi has been approved. Students will begin enrolling in this program for the Fall 1996 semester.

Dr. Ray distributed an article from USA Today of outstanding activities going on nationwide at community colleges. A student from East Central Community College, Christopher Gomillion, has received a national PTK \$5,000 scholarship.

Dr. Ray reported that SBCJC offices will be closed on September 2, 1996, in observance of Labor Day.

Dr. Ray also reported that the SBCJC Wide Area Network installation has begun. East Central and Copiah-Lincoln Community Colleges are now on line and will be tested before the other sites are added.

Dr. Ray reported that he had received a letter from Dr. Bobby Garvin, President of Mississippi Delta Community College, confirming that their Board of Trustees had issued an invitation to the SBCJC to hold its April 1997 meeting at Delta.

Executive Director's Out-of-Town Schedule:

August 25 and 26 - Southern States Adult Basic Education Directors, Biloxi

September 4 - East Central Community College, District Workforce Council Meeting

September 15-18 - Southeastern Employment and Training Conference, Biloxi

REPORTS/ACTION

MACJC Report

R. L. McClellan reported that the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges had not met since the last Board meeting. Mr. McClellan distributed to Board members 1996/1997 MACJC Activity Passes that will allow Board members to attend activities at the fifteen community and junior colleges.

Finance Committee

On finance committee recommendation, a motion by William Seal, and a second by Perrin Purvis, the Board voted unanimously to approve the September 1996, Aid to Colleges Disbursement in the amount of \$5,361,450. (Exhibit B)

On finance committee recommendation, a motion by William Seal, and a second by Yvonne Brown, the Board voted unanimously to approve the August 31, 1996, Education Enhancement Fund Disbursement from Funds 4080 and 4110 in the total amount of \$1,772,062.67. (Exhibit C)

*John Junkin entered the meeting.

Mr. Seal presented for the Board's review the Bimonthly Capital Improvements Report on S.B. 3057 and S.B. 3304 bond projects. No action was required. (Exhibit D)

On finance committee recommendation, a motion by William Seal, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the purchase of equipment for the Industrial Training Degree Programs at Copiah-Lincoln, Itawamba, Mississippi Gulf Coast, and Northwest Mississippi Community Colleges, in the amount of \$54,000. (Exhibit E)

On finance committee recommendation, a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to approve new procedures for the purchase of food for business meetings. (Exhibit F)

Upon finance committee recommendation, a motion by William Seal, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to approve new procedures for SBCJC fixed assets. (Exhibit G)

Deborah Gilbert presented Financial Statements for Funds 2291, 3291, 3292, and 4300 for the Board's review. (Exhibit H) No action was required.

In other business, Mr. Seal reported that the fifteen community and junior colleges' FY1998 (MBR) Budget Requests and the Composite Request and the SBCJC Request are complete and now available to each Board member. Members were asked to let Deborah Gilbert know which ones they would like to have, and copies will be prepared.

Upon finance committee recommendation, a motion by Perrin Purvis, and a second by Hazel Terry, the Board voted unanimously to approve Mississippi's Conference on Health Care Reform and the expenditure of at least \$200 to cover the cost of meeting rooms. (Exhibit I)

Mr. Walker reminded Board members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee Hearing on September 11, 1996, at 1:50 p.m. He urged all Board members to try and be present.

Workforce Education Report

Chairman Walker updated Board members on State Workforce Training Council activities. The date of the next Council meeting is September 11, 1996, and he urged Board members attending the LBO hearing to attend. Mr. Walker reported on the spirit of cooperation between the State Workforce Council and the newly established One-Stop Interagency Executive Council. Mr. Walker stated that letters have been drafted and mailed to legislative leaders across the state that contain a list of training priorities for state fiscal year 1998 adopted at the SWDC meeting on July 10, 1996. Training priorities include: (1) technical industry specific training; (2) job enhancement training; (3) adult basic education, and (4) pre-employment/expanding training. These priorities are intended to meet the demands of future economic development and will produce jobs within this state.

Mr. Walker commented on an article that appeared on July 27, 1996, in the Clarion Ledger stating that at this time any trained and qualified person seeking employment may do so in Mississippi. However, there is great concern that many Mississippians do not have skills that would qualify them for even basic jobs. The article called for lawmakers, leaders of higher education, and leaders of community colleges to expand training and development programs before the situation worsens.

Mr. Walker distributed to Board members brochures on the Associate Degree Industrial Training Program at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and the Bachelor Degree Industrial Training Program at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Mr. Walker also reported on a meeting at Delta State University at which the State Workforce Training Act of 1996 was discussed. Members of the State Workforce Council, DSU faculty and administration, were in attendance. Additionally, Dr. Vivian Presley, President, and Mrs. Lois McMurchy, Career Center Director of Coahoma Community College, as well as, Dr. Bobby Garvin, President, and Dr. Tony Honeycutt, Career Center Director of Mississippi Delta Community College, also took part in the presentation.

On a motion by Henry Hudspeth and a second by Hazel Terry, the Board voted unanimously to endorse the request for additional workforce training funds in the amount of \$825,000. This amount will be included in the state workforce training budget within the SBCJC's funding request.

Proprietary Schools Report

Janet Henderson updated Board members on the agenda items discussed at the June and August 1996, meetings of the Commission on Proprietary Schools and College Registration. (Exhibit J)

GED Report

Bill Box reported to Board members on GED activities. In the year 1995, there was an 8% increase in diplomas issued over year 1994. Mr. Box reported that so far in 1996 there has been a 7% increase in the number of GED diplomas issued over the number issued in 1995. During the 1995 calendar year, 523,463 GED diplomas were issued nationwide. This is the largest number of diplomas ever recorded.

For Board members' information, Mr. Box distributed a copy of a press release being published listing the new minimum score requirements for passing the GED tests. This change will go into effect on January 1, 1997. (Exhibit K)

Travel Authorizations

Chairman Walker asked for requests to authorize travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. On a motion by Perrin Purvis, seconded by Patricia Puckett, the Board voted unanimously to approve requests for reimbursement to Hazel Terry for her attendance at Health Care Committee meetings on July 17, and 23, 1996, and to Yvonne Brown for her attendance at the Mississippi Community College Fellowship Program in Louisville on August 2, and an EdNet Board meeting in Jackson on August 6, 1996.

Dr. Olon Ray announced that Yvonne Brown had been appointed by the Governor to serve on the EdNet Board.

Dr. Ray also distributed a new listing of Board members including their addresses, phone, and fax numbers.

Dr. Ray announced that three new members had been appointed to the State Workforce Council, as a result of legislative changes made during the 1996 session in the Workforce and Education Act, Dr. Nell Carney, Hurley Ray Guillotte, and Nell Rogers.

Report on Final Staff Re-Organization

On a motion by John Junkin and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to consider going into executive session to discuss personnel matters related to the new SBCJC office reorganization.

On a motion by John Junkin and a second by Alton Bankston, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session for the stated purpose. Dr. Olon Ray and Frankie Walton White were asked to remain.

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Ray provided Board members with the new SBCJC office organizational chart and new job descriptions. Board members were updated on the status of procedures outlined to the Board at the July meeting. Dr. Ray reported that approximately 169 applications had been received for four (4) new positions. He informed the Board that if the caliber of applicants did not meet the expectations of this Board, he would reserve the right to reopen the application period on a case-by-case basis.

On a motion by Perrin Purvis and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to support their Executive Director in the new direction in which he is leading the Board and Board staff with the new organizational structure. On a motion by Alton Bankston and a second by Hazel Terry, the Board voted unanimously to endorse and adopt the new organizational chart for the SBCJC office and the positions created as a result of the new organizational structure.

On a motion by John Junkin and a second by Perrin Purvis, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session.

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, on a motion by William Seal and a second by Patricia Puckett, the Board voted unanimously to hold the October SBCJC meeting at the Resource Center in the Landmark Building in downtown Jackson on October 17, 1996, at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Perrin Purvis, seconded by John Junkin, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.


George Walker, Chairman

Olon E. Ray
Executive Director